

EMWD was able to substantially expand the agency's desalination program creating a new local water source for its residents. The federal and state funding secured for this initiative resulted in the construction of the South Perris Desalter project, which will produce 6,000 acre-feet per year of potable water.

Mr. Jones was also a leading advocate for transforming the Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI recycled water funding program into a competitive grant program—a goal which was realized through the enactment of the Water Infrastructure Investment for the Nation (WIIN) Act in 2016. While President of the WaterReuse Association, Mr. Jones helped to develop the nation's first ever federal Water Reuse Action Plan which formally launched in February 2020. During California's historic drought, Mr. Jones worked with other state water leaders to create a more equitable system that rewarded proactive water use efficiency measures. In addition, Paul has led the way in California for a more viable alternative to assist failing water systems without the need for a statewide tax on all water users.

On the local level, Mr. Jones has played a key role in a local agency partnership to transform the area near Diamond Valley Lake into an environmentally sustainable recreational area. In addition, on behalf of EMWD Mr. Jones has made innumerable contributions at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, the Association of California Water Agencies, the Southern California Water Coalition, and the California WaterReuse Association. I would like to thank Paul Jones for his service to the community and water industry and wish him much happiness in his retirement.

CONGRATULATING ARKANSAS  
STATE TROOPER JAMES O. RAY  
ON BEING NAMED AS AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATIONS OF STATE TROOPERS  
TROOPER OF THE YEAR

**HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 11, 2021*

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Arkansas State Trooper James O. Ray on being named the 2021 American Association of State Troopers Trooper of the Year. A three-year veteran of the Arkansas State Police Highway Patrol Division and Franklin County resident, Officer Ray exemplifies service beyond the call of duty and represents the finest of Arkansas' Fourth District.

Officer Ray was granted this honor following his courageous action in December 2020 in which his wise response to a dangerous chase prevented catastrophic damage and injury to the public. After responding to a call to support a fellow trooper along Interstate 40 near Ozark, Officer Ray followed a suspect vehicle at speeds exceeding 100 miles per hour. The suspect later crossed the median, driving toward oncoming traffic. Officer Ray drove ahead of the suspect in the opposite lane, stopped traffic to protect motorists behind him, and then rammed the front corner of the suspect vehicle. Once both vehicles were in the median, Trooper Ray safely arrested the

suspect, with no injuries to the suspect or any other motorist.

I take this time today to congratulate Trooper Ray on this most deserving honor and thank him for his exemplary service to the people of the State of Arkansas. May we always look to officers like him as the picture of true heroism.

HONORING MR. JAMES TOBIN

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 11, 2021*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. James J. Tobin—a man who dedicated almost 40 years of his life to the automotive industry before retiring at the end of last year.

In the close-knit community of auto manufacturing, Mr. Tobin was a model of integrity, leadership, and hard work. As an executive with Magna International, the world's largest supplier for vehicles and automobiles, he was integral to strategic planning for an ever-changing landscape.

That knack for adapting—the ability to innovate as an industry leader while having the flexibility of someone helming a start-up—was instrumental when the first wave of COVID-19 hit our state last March.

Working closely with the State of Michigan, Oakland County, and my office, Mr. Tobin helped retool Magna's global supply chains to secure PPE for our frontline workers. His expertise with logistics and operations helped overcome challenges by bridging the gap between Asian and North American markets.

Whether it was supporting domestic production of gowns, face shields and ventilators, or coordinating meals to local health care workers, Mr. Tobin stepped up when folks needed it most.

The open dialogue and communication between his team and ours brought essential supplies and equipment to the front lines of the pandemic.

I am ever-grateful to have had him as a partner in our efforts. There is no doubt in my mind that lives in Michigan were saved because of Mr. Tobin and the folks at Magna.

Now, as he enjoys his well-earned retirement, I am wishing him all the best. He deserves the R&R but, knowing him, I'm certain he'll continue to give back—as a loving husband and father of three and as a dedicated role model in the community.

It's my privilege to recognize him on the floor of the People's House so his achievements and contributions can forever live on.

HONORING FORMER AMBASSADOR  
AHMET SHALA

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 11, 2021*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor the first Minister of Finance for the Republic of Kosovo and former Kosovo Ambassador to Japan, Mr. Ahmet Shala, on earning his Doctor of Philos-

ophy in Strategic Leadership from James Madison University.

Mr. Shala was one of the first entrepreneurs to establish his own business in Kosovo, where he founded The Cambridge School, which is considered one of the leading institutions for English Language Teaching in Kosovo.

Mr. Shala began his career in public service when he was named the Deputy Managing Director at the Kosovo Trust Agency, where he was responsible for directing and managing the privatization of Kosovo's socially-owned enterprises. He later became the co-head of the Department of Trade and Industry, where he developed strategies and procedures for commercialization, again helping to transform Kosovo's socially-owned enterprises into private-sector development.

After being named the first Minister of Economy and Finance for the Republic of Kosovo in 2008, Mr. Shala laid the building blocks of the country's current economic system and successfully coordinated Kosovo's membership to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in 2009. Mr. Shala ran the Ministry of Finance until 2012, when he was appointed Kosovo's Ambassador to Japan.

After serving as Ambassador, Mr. Shala continued his service to the international community as a lecturer and professor in European and American educational institutions such as the London School of Economics, James Madison University and Harvard University.

Since losing family and friends to the horrific war crimes committed during the Kosovo War, he has been an avid human rights advocate and works to provide a voice for those facing oppression by expanding access to doctoral and master's program opportunities. At James Madison University, Mr. Shala has worked to ease tensions in the Balkan region by improving the quality of education in Kosovo and by partnering Kosovar students with high-impact graduate programs in the United States.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Former Ambassador Shala for his academic accomplishments along with his distinguished service to Kosovo, the United States and the global community.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF IRENE B.  
WEST

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 11, 2021*

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise to honor the life of beloved Sacramentan Irene B. West, Retired Principal of the Elk Grove Unified School District, City of Elk Grove, County of Sacramento, California. Mrs. West entered eternal rest on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at the age of 88. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. West.

Mrs. West was a beloved California educator, community leader, activist, and devoted mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She was a longtime and very active member of one of California's historic religious institutions, Shiloh Baptist Church. Mrs. West was a supporter of, mentor and friend to many. The citizens of the Sacramento area benefitted

greatly from her passion and love for educating our students; her dedicated service made our community and State better.

Mrs. West was born July 3, 1932 in Crowley, Louisiana and was reared in Orange, Texas during the height of the Great Depression, a time when the racial climate in America was even more depressing for African Americans. Knowing the importance of education, she graduated valedictorian in her high school class in Texas. She then enrolled in undergraduate studies at the historic Fisk University at Nashville, Tennessee where she would meet her late husband, Clifton L. West, Jr. The couple relocated, in 1958, to McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento where her husband was stationed. Mrs. West completed her education by earning a Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University at Sacramento and a Master of Arts from the University of San Francisco.

In 1962, before completing her undergraduate studies, Mrs. West took on a seemingly insurmountable challenge, being hired as a teacher in the all-white student and faculty Elk Grove Unified School District. This marked the embarking upon a barrier-breaking 27-year career in education. She quickly rose through the ranks in teaching and administration to the position of Principal in 1979, a position in which she served for ten years. Although she retired in 1989, she remained a very active respected presence in and around the Elk Grove-Sacramento community well into her 80s.

Despite her demanding career and devotion to serving others, Mrs. West's four children did not lack in parental love, nurturing and educational guidance. All her children excelled in academia, sports, or both, two of whom having achieved professorship at prestigious universities, and another is an accomplished Zoo linguist.

A partial list of awards and recognitions marking Mrs. West's achievements include educational awards and citations such as Teacher of the Year; newspaper awards which included the 1963 Mother of the Year (her most endearing recognition); awards from All-state Insurance, Shiloh Baptist Church, Sacramento Council of Negro Women, Sacramento Chapter of 100 Black Women; in 1979, first female principal in the Elk Grove Unified School District; and, in 2002, the first African American in Sacramento to have a school, Irene B. West Elementary, named in her honor.

Madam Speaker, today as family and friends of Mrs. Irene B. West gather to remember her, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her tremendous legacy of educator, encourager, and motivator. Her mark on the Sacramento area community will live on forever.

IN RECOGNITION OF TAYLOR  
WARE

**HON. LAUREN UNDERWOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 11, 2021*

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Taylor Ware for her service in my office in Washington, D.C.

Taylor joined our office as a legislative correspondent at the beginning of the coronavirus

pandemic. As our office pivoted to remote work and worked 24/7 to respond to the massive increase in constituents reaching out with questions or for assistance, Taylor played an integral role. Among other accomplishments, she drafted hundreds of letters updating constituents on policy changes, made sure every incoming message was promptly referred for a response, and solely managed a detailed and high-volume correspondence system. Taylor truly went above and beyond in managing constituent correspondence, fulfilling my commitment to transparency and accountability and elevating constituent concerns so we could bring them directly to Administration officials. Taylor also worked to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion in Congress through her role leading Legislative Branch appropriations for the office for Fiscal Year 2022.

Taylor's thoughtfulness, graciousness, and professionalism were invaluable assets as we worked to keep our community safe, healthy, and informed in this unprecedented year. I particularly want to recognize her efforts to support and mentor interns in our office, who relied on her for answers and guidance. Although Taylor may be leaving our office, our community in northern Illinois and my entire staff will continue to benefit from the results of her hard work and expertise.

Prior to joining my staff, Taylor earned a Bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania State University and a Master's degree from Washington University in St. Louis. I am grateful she chose to continue her career in public service by joining my office. Our office will miss her kindness, intelligence, sense of humor, and love of bizarre Jell-O recipes.

Madam Speaker, I would like to formally thank Taylor Ware for her service to my office, to Illinois's 14th Congressional District, and to our country.

THE COMMUNITY BROADBAND ACT

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 11, 2021*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I'm proud to sponsor H.R. 1631, the Community Broadband Act, a bicameral bill that empowers communities in every state to bridge the digital divide by deploying their own local broadband networks.

Tens of millions of Americans lack access to broadband or can't afford it. This digital divide is a national embarrassment, and we must do everything we can to solve it. One part of the solution should be community broadband, a proven model that works to provide fast broadband at affordable speeds to millions of Americans today.

Over 900 municipalities, Tribes, co-ops, public-private partnerships, and nonprofits across the U.S. administer broadband networks in their own communities. These are communities in urban, suburban, rural, and Tribal regions of our country spanning 120 Congressional Districts.

Unfortunately, 22 states have enacted laws to limit or ban such networks. These state laws shield incumbents from competition and harm consumers. Importantly, research by New America's Open Technology Institute shows that community broadband produces higher quality service at lower costs.

For this reason, Senator CORY BOOKER, Representative JARED GOLDEN, and I introduced the Community Broadband Act which preempts protectionist state laws to enable community broadband. The Community Broadband Act was originally introduced in the 109th Congress by Senators Lautenberg and McCain, and I've been proud to carry this legislation with Senator BOOKER since the 114th Congress.

The Community Broadband Act is supported by a long list of well-respected organizations, including the National League of Cities; the National Association of Counties; Next Century Cities; the Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association; National Urban League; Consumer Reports; Electronic Frontier Foundation; New America's Open Technology Institute; Public Knowledge; Free Press Action; the Center for Democracy & Technology; Access Now; the National Digital Inclusion Alliance; National Rural Electric Cooperative Association; the Utilities Technology Council; the Institute for Local Self-Reliance; and the Coalition for Local Internet Choice.

Last Congress, the House passed the Community Broadband Act as part of H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act. The legislation is included in H.R. 1783, Majority Whip CLYBURN's Accessible, Affordable Internet for All Act and H.R. 1848, the Energy and Commerce Committee's LIFT America Act, and I thank Whip CLYBURN and Chairman PALLONE for including my legislation in theirs.

I'm also very pleased that the Biden-Harris Administration's American Jobs Plan proposal includes the need for "lifting barriers that prevent municipally-owned or affiliated providers and rural electric co-ops from competing on an even playing field with private providers," which can be achieved by enacting the Community Broadband Act.

At a recent hearing of the Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, three witnesses made a strong case for the importance of community broadband, and each endorsed the Community Broadband Act. They testified about successful networks of many types that I wish to recognize as well:

The City of Wilson, North Carolina, operates a successful fiber-to-the-home network for its residents. The City of San Rafael, California partnered with a nonprofit to develop a mesh network to provide free wi-fi to residents. EugNet is an open-access network in Eugene, Oregon that has experienced major societal returns to their investment in a community network. The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority is a highly successful Tribal broadband network. The City of Lafayette, Louisiana launched LUS Fiber to offer affordable, high-speed broadband for all of its residents. The City of Chattanooga, Tennessee, invested in a fiber network in 2009. That network isn't just economically viable, it turns a profit for the city even after offering low prices.

I also wish to recognize two community networks in my California's 18th Congressional District. A group of residents of the City of Los Altos Hills formed a mutual benefit organization called the Los Altos Hills Community Fiber Association to offer high-speed internet where other fiber options are sparse. The City of Palo was a pioneer when it became one of the first cities in our country to deploy a dark fiber network in 1996. This has enabled high-quality